



The Urban Environmental Program (UEP), launched in 1995 as the Urban Environmental Initiative, addresses environmental and public health problems in urban areas. The UEP facilitates community based environmental protection in targeted cities by taking an active roll in listening to community needs and concerns, identifying projects, and providing resources to implement projects that make measurable improvements in public health and the quality of the urban environment.

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Fact Sheet/June 2002

Hartford, Conn.

Photo: Greater Hartford Convention & Visitors Bureau



What Makes Hartford Special?

- Hartford is one of CT's urban centers with a rich New England history.
- Hartford is sub-divided into 17 neighborhoods, each with its own neighborhood market/commercial district.
- Hartford is rich in ethnic, cultural and racial diversity. Over 70% of residents are people of color.
- Effective partnerships promote community awareness and involvement in decisions that address the environment and public health.

Why Does Hartford Need Special Attention?

- Of children screened in Hartford, 5.3% have elevated blood lead levels and 47% of those children are Hispanic.
- In Hartford, rates of hospitalization and emergency room visits for asthma among children, ages 0-14, are three times higher than state rates. Of children screened with asthma, 48% are Hispanic/Puerto Rican and 35% African American.
- Hartford is in an EPA designated non-attainment area for ozone air pollution.

What is the Long Term Goal?

- The Urban Environmental Program aims to increase community awareness and participation to improve environmental quality and public health (asthma, lead poisoning and air toxics).

Progress/Goals for the Future

What Partnership Progress has Been Made?

- St. Francis Hospital: Targeted home-based visits with families and children who suffer with severe asthma and lead poisoning has resulted in a 65 percent reduction in participant hospitalizations.
- Hartford Health Department: Launched a new website entitled "Hartford: Your Health and Your Environment, What You Should Know" and held a series of community demonstrations. Produced a community talk show as a spinoff to the website on environmental health issues of importance to local residents.
- Hartford Environmental Justice Network: Designed and implemented a city-wide education campaign on diesel exposures and respiratory health, and promoted awareness and compliance with Connecticut's bus anti-idling law.
- School Indoor Environment Resource Team: Convened Connecticut's first indoor air quality conference with more than 200 people in attendance.

What Major Actions are Planned for 2002?

- Develop an asthma speaker's bureau and launch a city-wide asthma public awareness campaign.
- Expand home-based education and relocation resources to support local school-based clinic services for families suffering from severe asthma and lead.
- Develop a community, business and governmental coalition to work with small public/private bus companies to encourage reduction in diesel emissions.

(continued)

City of Hartford



Who are the Partners?

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency •
- Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
- City of Hartford • Citizen's Research Education Network (CREN) • Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area • Connecticut Voices for Children, Inc. • Connecticut Environmental Justice Coalition • Hispanic Health Council • Hartford Areas Rally Together (HART) • Knox Parks Foundation • Hartford Enterprise Zone Business Association • University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension Services • Organized North Easterners/Clay Hill and North End, (ONE/CHANE) Inc. • Southside Institutional Neighborhood Association (SINA) • South Arsenal Neighborhood Development Corporation (SAND) • St. Francis Hospital • Hartford Hospital • Upper Albany Merchants Association • Connecticut Children's Medical Center • Connecticut Citizen's Research Group • University of Connecticut Environmental Research Institute • Hartford Environmental Justice Network (HEJN) • Building Parent Power • Upper Albany Neighborhood Collaborative • CT Department of Public Health • Pliny Block Association • Clay Arsenal Neighborhood Revitalization Zone • CT School Indoor Environments Resource Team • Hartford 2000 • Hartford Public Schools • Hartford Health Department



What Major Actions are Planned for 2002? (continued)

- ▶ Begin work to incorporate Tools for Schools (TfS) into the Hartford Public School system.
- ▶ Continue training school stakeholders in Integrated Pest Management.
- ▶ Work with Hartford Health Department and University of Connecticut Environmental Research Institute (ERI) to launch a spanish version of community resource website and coordinate community demonstrations.
- ▶ Train community leaders on principles of smart growth for inclusion in neighborhood strategic and implementation plans.
- ▶ Continue development of a watershed management plan to improve water quality and enhance air quality in and around the Park River.



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Note: EPA-New England offers businesses and municipalities information and assistance to improve compliance with environmental laws and be better stewards of their local environment. Please call to learn how EPA can help.

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